

A NO-LOSE PROPOSITION

the first memo i read
announces a summer remedial program
to get student writing
up to an acceptable level.

the second memo i read
advises faculty members of the possibilities
in leading foreign study tours,
and reminds us that,
not only may we travel free ourselves,
but that the possibility exists that we might also
"cost-off our spouses."

I THINK IT WAS '72

we went to interview
this famous experimental novelist
(famous, that is, by the standards
of experimental novelists).
in the middle of the interview,
his wife, who was an aspiring lyric poet,
stormed out
because we weren't asking her enough questions.

we hadn't intended to ask her any questions,
but her husband went after her
and persuaded her to return
on the condition that she get equal time.
after that, whenever she began to get antsy,
we'd rack our brains to come up with
a question or two for her, but it was difficult
because what little she had written
was not well known to us or to anyone.

the inter never came out anyway.
i think the husband and wife are separated.
he is still a famous
(by the standards of experimental novelists)
experimental novelist,
and she is still not very well known,
not even on the women's circuit.

it was my first experience of women's liberation.